

Pima County – City of Tucson Safe Routes to School Fact Sheet



Safe Routes to School Program Information

Pima County and the City of Tucson have launched a pilot program at seven local elementary schools to develop safe routes for children to walk or bicycle to school, and to educate them about walking and bicycling safely. This pilot program is funded by a federal grant, with matching funds from the county and city. It aims to encourage children to engage in more physical activity, and reduce traffic collisions involving children.

The Safe Routes to School program is modeled after other successful programs in the country, including a nationally recognized program in Marin County, Calif. Second-grade students at the pilot schools learn about pedestrian safety, while fourth-graders learn about bicycle safety.

In addition to educating children, the program engages parents, teachers, school staffers, transportation officials, law-enforcement officers and school district officials to identify the travel habits of students and develop safe routes for students to use while walking or bicycling to school. Needed facility improvements, such as the addition of bicycle racks or sidewalk ramps, are being identified. Training programs will be implemented for teachers and school staffers, along with enhanced police enforcement measures. Educational and promotional materials will reinforce the message of pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Pilot Elementary Schools

The seven schools participating in the pilot study represent four local school districts, including the Flowing Wells Unified School District, the Marana Unified School District, the Tanque Verde Unified School District and the Tucson Unified School District.

- Agua Caliente Elementary, 11420 E. Limberlost Road
- Brichta Elementary, 2110 W. Brichta Drive
- Butterfield Elementary, 3400 W. Massingale Road
- Homer Davis Elementary, 4250 N. Romero Road
- Howell Elementary, 401 N. Irving Avenue
- Hughes Elementary, 700 N. Wilson Avenue
- Laguna Elementary, 5001 N. Shannon Road

Program Schedule and Contact Information

The Safe Routes to School program began in the fall of 2005, and will last for two years. The program's first phase focuses on the educational component, along with the identification of both minor and major infrastructure improvements needed to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The second phase will include the complete design of a limited number of small improvement projects at the schools, and the preliminary design for larger improvement projects. Additional funding will be needed to construct the infrastructure improvements.

Pima County and City of Tucson officials believe the Safe Routes to School program will offer many benefits to the schools and the community. They hope to extend the program to other schools in the future. Additional schools cannot be added to the pilot program at this time, but informational materials may be provided to people interested in instituting some of the principles of Safe Routes to Schools in other schools. For more information, please contact Donna Lewandowski at 740-6941, Matt Zoll at 740-6746 or Melissa Antol at 791-4371.